

## Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /157 W

----- 039923

R 241240Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2665

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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DEPT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JO, TS, XF

SUBJECT: JORDAN-TUNISIA DIPLOMATIC BREAK

REF: AMMAN 3844 (NOTAL)

1. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF SILENCE, TUNISIAN PRESS FINALLY REPORTED JORDAN'S DECISION BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN PRESS ON JULY 21. PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT ACTING FONMIN MAHMOUD MESTIRI CALLED IN JORDANIAN CHARGE IBRAHIM NAGHAWAY TO REPEAT GOT'S REGRET THAT JORDAN HAD TAKEN THIS STEP, AND TO INFORM GOJ THAT KUWAIT HAD AGREED TO REPRESENT TUNISIA'S INTERESTS IN AMMAN.

2. ASIDE FROM THIS, THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL PUBLIC REACTION  
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TO BREAK IN RELATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, PRESS CAMPAIGN BOTH IN

NEWS ARTICLES, REPORTS OF REACTIONS IN FOREIGN PRESS AND EDITORIALS IN OFFICIAL MEDIA HAVE DEFENDED TUNISIAN POSITION AND TAKEN ISSUE WITH ATTACKS ON TUNISIA EMANATING FROM AMMAN. MEDIA HERE ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO JORDANIAN CHARGES THAT BOURGUIBA IN EFFECT PLAYING ISRAEL'S GAME BY CALLING FOR FORMATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE "OUTSIDE OF PALESTINE" AND THUS ACCEPTING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST WITHIN PRE-1967 BORDERS. IN CITING FOREIGN PRESS REACTIONS, GOT MEDIA EMPHASIZE SUPPORT FOR BOURGUIBA'S OVERALL INITIATIVE IN BRINGING TO FORE QUESTION OF FORMATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE AS PRINCIPAL ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE OTHER MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS CAN BE USEFULLY DISCUSSED.

3. AS FAR AS NEW CONTACTS WITH ISRAELIS CONCERNED, QUESTION SEEMS DEAD OR AT LEAST DORMANT FROM TUNISIAN POINT OF VIEW AT THIS TIME. FONMIN MASMOUDI RETURNING TUNIS JULY 24 AFTER EXTENDED STAY IN EUROPE. HIS CHEF DE CABINET (HASSEN FODHA) TOLD US THAT MASMOUDI HAD MADE NO CONTACTS, SECRET OR OTHERWISE, WITH ISRAELIS WHILE IN EUROPE. FODHA SAID THAT NEXT MOVE UP TO ISRAEL; IT MUST ACCEPT 1947 PARTITION RESOLUTION "AS BASIS OF DEPARTURE" FOR DISCUSSIONS. GOT STILL INTERESTED IN DIALOGUE, BUT 1947 RESOLUTION MUST PROVIDE LEGAL "SOURCE" FOR SETTLEMENT. REGARDING JORDAN, FODHA SAID THAT GOJ DECISION WAS "UNFORTUNATE", BUT ADDED THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA CALLS THINGS AS HE SEES THEM AND THAT HIS HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF JORDANIAN AND PALESTINIAN STATES WAS ACCURATE.  
SEELYE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO,

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JORDAN-TUNISIA DIPLOMATIC BREAK  
**TAGS:** PFOR, JO, TS, XF  
**To:** STATE  
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